

What is Claimed Is:

1. A method for automatic detection of medical conditions in medical images, comprising the steps of:

receiving image data;

5 processing the image data to detect potential medical conditions in the image data;

adding a mark in the image data that indicates a detected medical condition;

adding a false mark in the image data; and

10 outputting marked image data comprising one or more marks that indicate a detected medical condition, or one or more false marks, or both.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adding  
15 a false mark comprises adding a fixed number of false marks in the image data.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the fixed number of false marks are added to random locations in the image data.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adding a false mark comprises adding a random number of false marks in the image data for each invocation of the automatic detection method.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of adding a random number of false marks comprises adding no false marks for a given invocation or adding one or more false marks for a given invocation.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adding a false mark comprises marking a region or structure in the image data that has features similar to a medical condition being evaluated.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adding a false mark comprises randomly perturbing a location at which a mark is inserted in the image data to indicate a detected medical condition.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the medical condition comprises an abnormal anatomical structure.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the medical  
20 condition comprises a lesion.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising rendering the marked image data to display one or more 2D, 3D, or both 2D and 3D images having marks or false marks.

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11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of not including a mark at a location or region in the image data that is detected as having a potential medical condition.

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12. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for automatic detection of medical conditions in medical images, the method steps comprising:

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receiving image data;

processing the image data to detect potential medical conditions in the image data;

adding a mark in the image data that indicates a detected medical condition;

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adding a false mark in the image data; and

outputting marked image data comprising one or more marks that indicate a detected medical condition, or one or more false marks, or both.

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13. The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the instructions for adding a false mark comprise instructions for adding a fixed number of false marks in the image data.

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14. The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the fixed number of false marks are added to random locations in the image data.

5        15. The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the instructions for adding a false mark comprise instructions for adding a random number of false marks in the image data for each invocation of the automatic detection method.

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16. The program storage device of claim 15, wherein the instructions for adding a random number of false marks comprise instructions for adding no false marks for a given invocation or adding one or more false marks for a given  
15 invocation.

17. The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the instructions for adding a false mark comprise instructions for marking a region or structure in the image  
20 data that has features similar to a medical condition being evaluated.

18. The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the instructions for adding a false mark comprise

instructions for randomly perturbing a location at which a mark is inserted to indicate a detected medical condition.

19. The program storage device of claim 12, wherein  
5 the medical condition comprises an abnormal anatomical structure.

20. The program storage device of claim 12, wherein  
the medical condition comprises a lesion.  
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21. The program storage device of claim 12, further comprising instructions for rendering the marked image data to display one or more 2D, 3D, or both 2D and 3D images having marks or false marks or both.

22. The program storage device of claim 12, further comprising instructions for not including a mark at a location or region in the image data that is detected as having a potential medical condition.  
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